season to be marketed in 1997-98 as under:—

Commodity	Minimum Support Price (Rs. per quintal)
Wheat	415
Barley	305
Gram	740
Safflower	830
Rapeseed/Mustard	890

Loss of livestock in West Godavari district due to cyclone

736. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have deputed any team to survey the loss of cattle and livestock in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh due to the recent cyclone;

(b) if so, when did this team visit West Godavari district;

(c) its assessment of loss of livestock and cattle;

(d) whether any proposal has been cleared to extend financial assistance to the farmers for loss of their livestock; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) In response to a Memorandum seeking additional assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR), a Central Team was deputed to Andhra Pradesh to assess the extent of damage and requirements of relief and rehabilitation in various sectors including the Animal Husbandry Sector in the wake of cyclone of November, 1996. The Team visited West Godavari district on 28—30 November, 1996.

(c) According to the assessment of the Central Team, about 10,000 cattle, 5,000 sheep, goats and pigs and 22,00,000 poultry birds perished due to the cyclone and flood of November, 1996 in East and West Godavari districts.

(d) and (e) On the basis of the recommendations of the Central Team the National Calamity Relief Committee approved an assistance of Rs. 142.00 crores from the NFCR for relief measures in various sectors including Animal Husbandary Sector, which was released on 1.1.1997. This is in addition to Rs. 93.14 crores released as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund during 1996-97.

गन्ने को राष्ट्रीय फसल के रूप में घोषित किया जाना

737. **श्री संजय निरूपम:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार के पास गन्ने को राष्ट्रीय फसल घोषित करने संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार किसी अन्य फसल को राष्ट्रीय फसल घोषित करने का विचार रखती है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं। गन्ने या किसी अन्य फसल को राष्ट्रीय फसल घोषित करने संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Pashu Vigyan Kendras

738. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme for setting up of Pashu Vigyan Kendras on the pattern of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme formulated/under consideration and allocations likely to be made for 1997-98 for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Each Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in the country including those 23 in Maharashtra, have a